

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GEORGE 00183 251923Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08
AGRE-00 AID-05 OMB-01 /070 W
-----252128Z 041065 /73

R 251830Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4095
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, GY, PROP
SUBJECT: CHRONICLE ASSESSED CARTER ADMINISTRATION

1. JAN 23 CHRONICLE GAVE PROMINENT PLAY TO USIS RELEASE ON NEW ADMINISTRATION. CHRONICLE SENIOR POLITICAL COMMENTATOR MOHAMMED HAMALUDIN STATED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS GIVES HOPE OF NEW ENLIGHTENED USG FOREIGN POLICY APPROACH TOWARDS DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. ACCORDING TO CORRESPONDENT, TONE OF CARTER ADMINISTRATION SET BY APPOINTMENTS OF ANDREW YOUNG AS UN REPRESENTATIVE AND VANCE AS SECSTATE.

2. CHRONICLE REPORTER REVIEWED PARTS OF TESTIMONY GIVEN BY VANCE BEFORE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE ON JAN 11 TO EFFECT THAT USG SHOULD SEEK TO REMOVE IMPEDIMENTS BETWEEN US AND CUBA AND MOVE TOWARDS NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH THAT

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COUNTRY AND WITH ANGOLA. VANCE'S REMARKS FIRMLY SUPPORTING MAJORITY RIGHTS IN ZIMBABWE, OPPOSING APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICA AND FAVORING INDEPENDENCE FOR NAMIBIA ARE CONSIDERED ENCOURAGING. VANCE WAS ALSO PRAISED FOR REMARKS DEPLORING COVERT ACTIVITIES AGAINST OTHER NATIONS.

3. HOWEVER, WRITER EMPHASIZED THAT NEW ADMINISTRA-

TIONS MUST ALSO ADDRESS CONCRETE ISSUES OF COMMODITY PRICES AND ROLE OF AMERICAN AID VIS A VIS DEVELOPING NATIONS. SPECIFICALLY, THE GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES (GSP) WAS DESCRIBED AS UNFAIR TO SUGAR EXPORTERS SUCH AS GUYANA AND JAMAICA. TO AID THE DEVELOPING WORLD, THE NEW ADMINISTRATION SHOULD APPORTION GENEROUS QUOTAS FOR SUGAR AT PRICE AT LEAST COMPARABLE TO THAT RECEIVED BY US PRODUCERS.

4. EMPLOYING TYPICAL LDC RHETORIC, COMMENTATOR POINTED OUT THAT ALTHOUGH PROBLEM OF USG FOOD AID DOES NOT GREATLY CONCERN GUYANA, IT EXPLAINS WHY MANY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HAVE BECOME QUOTE DISILLUSIONED WITH THE PROMISE OF THE AMERICAN DREAM OF THE WORLD UNQUOTE. SWITCH DURING NIXON ADMINISTRATION FROM POLICY OF FREE FOOD AID PROMPTED BY HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS TO POLICY OF FOOD SALES RESULTING FROM SECURITY MOTIVATIONS HURT DEVELOPING WORLD. WRITER CLAIMED THAT TRADE OF BANGLADESH WITH CUBA WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN CAUSING US TO CUT BACK FOOD AID TO THAT COUNTRY AND ADOPT POLICY OF FOOD SALES WHICH CONTRIBUTED TO SEVERE FAMINE THERE IN 1974.

5. COMMENT: THIS ARTICLE, WHICH WAS UNDOUBTEDLY APPROVED AT HIGH GOVERNMENTAL LEVELS, IS SYMTOMATIC OF EQUIVOCAL ATTITUDE OF GOG TOWARDS US. GOG CONTINUES TO GIVE SIGNS THAT IT HOPES FOR BETTER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RELATIONS AND ON-GOING DIALOGUE WITH US BUT PLACES BURDEN FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS ON INITIATIVES COMING FROM US. ARTICLE WAS FAVORABLE IN TONE UNTIL LAST SECTION RELATING TO US FOOD SALES TO BANGLADESH THAT WERE CRITICALLY REPORTED IN WASHINGTON POST RECENTLY.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, FOREIGN RELATIONS, PRESS COMMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decapton Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977GEORGE00183
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770027-0441
Format: TEL
From: GEORGETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770122/aaaaaspn.tel
Line Count: 104
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 16799ed1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3514002
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHRONICLE ASSESSED CARTER ADMINISTRATION
TAGS: PFOR, PROP, GY, (CARTER, JIMMY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/16799ed1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009